



Data Points

CWHS

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

California has a long history of providing family planning services to low-income women and men, including the new Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (Family PACT) program which provides contraceptive methods, and screening for sexually transmitted diseases and breast and cervical cancer. Yet, there are still many women who do not utilize family planning services. Understanding the barriers women face is necessary to design programs to improve access to services.

To assess barriers that women at risk of unintended pregnancy¹ encounter in obtaining contraceptive services, the 1998 California Women's Health Survey (CWHS) asked women: (1) **"In the past year, have you gone without birth control supplies because you could not afford them?"** (2) **"In the past year, have you gone without birth control because you did not know where to get services or supplies?"** (3) **"In the past year, have you gone without birth control because you could not get an appointment or it was inconvenient to go to the appointment?"**

- Overall, more women at risk of unintended pregnancy reported having gone without contraceptives in the past year due to lack of money (6%) than due to difficulty in getting an

appointment (5%) or due to a lack of information about where to get family planning services/supplies (2%).

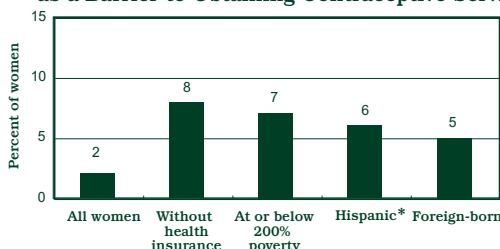
- Four subgroups of women were more likely to report barriers to obtaining family planning services. These include those without health insurance, low-income women, foreign-born women; among racial/ethnic groups, Hispanic women were more likely to report barriers to obtaining services.
- Women without public or private health insurance coverage were more than twice as likely to report that they had difficulty obtaining contraceptive services/supplies in the past year due to lack of money (16%) than were women in the population as a whole (6%).

BARRIERS TO OBTAINING CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES AMONG WOMEN AT RISK OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCY, CALIFORNIA, 1998

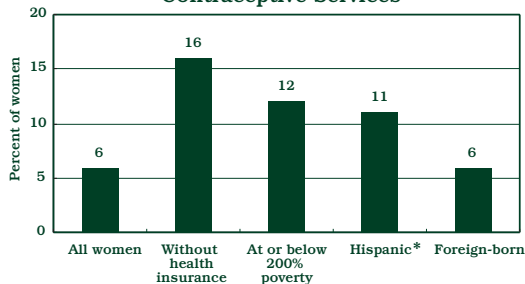
Office of Family Planning

¹ Women are considered to be at risk of unintended pregnancy if they have had a partner in the past year who was not infertile, and were neither pregnant nor trying to become pregnant.

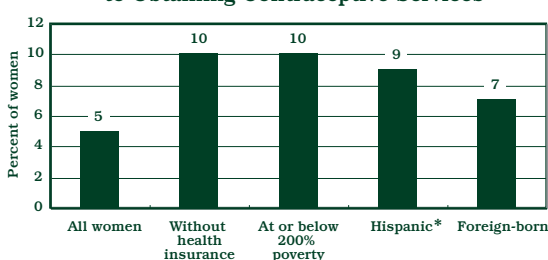
Not Knowing Where to Get Services/Supplies as a Barrier to Obtaining Contraceptive Services



Lack of Money as a Barrier to Obtaining Contraceptive Services



Difficulty in Getting Appointment as a Barrier to Obtaining Contraceptive Services



* Among racial/ethnic groups, Hispanic women were more likely to report barriers to obtaining services.

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